**ENGLISH 8**

**CLASS SYLLABUS**

**The mission of Guardian Angels Central Catholic School is to prepare all students to reach their fullest potential by learning and leading through Christ.**

**INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION:**

**Mrs. Kim Knobbe**

**Contact Information**

[**kknobbe@gacatholicschool.org**](mailto:kknobbe@gacatholicschool.org) **– email address**

**402-372-5326 – Central Catholic phone number**

**Sycamore Education – pass-a-note communication**

**BELIEFS:**

Welcome to my class! As your teacher, I believe that:

* All students can learn.
* All students ***want*** to learn.
* Learning ***requires*** work.
* Work needs to be challenging but not impossible.
* Students of all learning styles must be able to learn the concepts and do the work.
* Any student who learns the material and makes a worthy effort to do ***all*** the work should be able to pass the class

**GOALS:**

Here are some of my goals for you:

* Use prewriting writing activities to generate and organize information, guide writing and answer questions
* Generate a draft by: stating a thesis, structuring ideas in an effective manner, and follow an organizational plan
* Compose paragraphs with sentences of varying length and complexity
* Revise to improve writing – ideas, organization, sentence fluency, word choice, and voice
* Provide feedback to other writers to improve their writing
* Edit writing for conventions – capitalization, grammar, and punctuation
* Publish a legible document in a variety of ways – report, Power Point, or other methods
* Write a variety of genres, considering purpose – inform, entertain, persuade, or instruct
* Select and apply an organizational structure appropriate for the purpose of the writing
* Analyze examples of various genres in order to create similar pieces
* Communicate ideas and information in a manner appropriate for a purpose and setting
* Develop and apply speaking skills to communicate key ideas in a variety of situations
* Apply listening skills as needed for a particular situation
* Listen and ask appropriate questions to gather further information
* Apply conversation strategies when talking to others – eye contact, listening, remaining on topic, nonverbal cues
* Demonstrate ethical and legal use of information by citing sources
* Respect and acknowledge varying opinions and perspectives
* Select and use multiple resources to gather information, answer questions, and support conclusions
* Identify different forms of poetry
* Study varying forms of poetry and model writing by creating poems

**REQUIRED CLASSROOM SUPPLIES**

The following supplies should be brought to class each day as instructed:

* Textbook – Houghton Mifflin English 8
* 3-subject spiral bound notebook – daily work
* 1 – 70 page spiral bound notebook – Root Focus
* Loose-leaf paper as needed
* Writing supplies – pen and pencil
* Other books and supplies as requested by the teacher

**CLASSROOM GUIDELINES**

1. Always show respect for everyone in the class. Treat others the way you want to be treated.
2. Don’t talk when someone else is talking! Wait your turn.
3. Come to class with all your needed supplies – this includes assignments!
4. Have a positive attitude!
5. When in doubt, ask a question.
6. Students will also obey all other school rules as stated in the handbook.
7. I will notify parents with concerns I have in regards to behavior.

**ABSENCES**

When a student is absent, they are responsible for making up any work they have missed. If a student is absent; normally one day will be allowed for each day of absence. If a student knows they are going to be missing, they should check with the teacher prior to the absence to get the assignments for their work. Under these circumstances, the work in normally due on the day the student returns to school. Any concerns should be brought up with the teacher.

**GRADING**

Students will be evaluated throughout the class through a variety of assignments, projects, quizzes and tests. Major tests will be announced early so you may prepare for them. In addition, we will complete in class review to help you prepare for the test. The in class preparation does not mean you don’t need to study at home. You will still need to review at home.

Unannounced quizzes will be given throughout the course. The quizzes will cover material we have recently studied and allow me to monitor your learning before a major test.

At times during the year, you will be given long term assignments and/or projects which will require more work outside the classroom. These assignment and/or projects allow you the opportunity to demonstrate your mastery of skills in a way other than a test. During these assignments and/or projects, we will be continuing with other content so this will allow you the opportunity to learn how to meet deadlines and allocate your time. Both of those are important skills for lifelong success.

All grades will be given in percentages. Daily grades count once in the grade book. Quizzes and in class assignments also count once in the grade book. Major tests and major assignments and/or projects will be recorded twice to emphasis their importance.

If a student does not turn in an assignment, a zero will be entered in the grade book. The student will have five school days to turn the assignment into the teacher. Ten points will be deducted for each day it is late. After five school days, the zero will become the final grade for the assignment.

If a student is absent and does not turn in an assignment or misses a quiz or test, a zero will be recorded until they student turns in the work or makes up the assignment. By following this procedure, the student is still aware they need to complete the missing work.

I do not allow students to redo daily assignments. On an individual basis, I will determine if a student is allowed to retake a quiz or a test. Retake of a quiz or a test will only be allowed if a student is failing the class. If you are given the opportunity for a retake, this must be completed within two weeks of the date. The highest grade that can be obtained on a retake is a 70%.

If you fail to complete work, I may keep you after school to complete work as needed for mastery of the course objectives. If this happens, I will contact your parents about the situation.

Students are encouraged to check Sycamore on a regular basis to monitor their progress and check for any late or missing work.

The grading scale found in your handbook will be followed for the grading of all assignments. The scale is as follows:

A+/A = 95-100(4.0) B+ = 91-92(3.3) C+ = 84-85(2.3) D+ = 76-77(1.3)

A-=93-94(3.7) B = 88-90(3.0) C = 80-83(2.0) D = 72-75(1.0)

B-= 86-87(2.7) C-= 78-79(1.7) D-= 70-71(0.7)

F = 69 – 0 (0.0)

**EXTRA HELP**

If you are experiencing difficulties, please do not wait too long to see me. The longer you let it go the harder it is to correct the problems. You can ask to see me so we can discuss your work or request extra help.

From time to time, I will ask to see a student because I am concerned about their progress. I will set up a time for us to meet. It is the student’s responsibility to make it at the appointed time. If a student does not show up at the scheduled time, I will notify their parents.

I am usually available to provide extra help before school or after school. From time to time, I will have meetings or a class so I might have to leave school at dismissal time.

**Please sign and return this portion to school.**

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

**I agree to follow the guidelines set up in the course syllabus for English 8.**

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**Student Signature**

**I have read and discussed with my student the guidelines set up in the course syllabus for English 8.**

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**Parent Signature**